IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS SHERMAN DIVISION

ANGEL SELLER, LLC,	§	
	§	
Plaintiff,	§	
	§	
v.	§	Civil Action No. 4:23-CV-00111-SDJ
	§	
RANDY HYNE and AMBER BARNES,	§	
	§	
Defendants.	§	

DEFENDANTS' MOTION TO STAY DISCOVERY

/s/ Alan Dabdoub

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I. SUMMARY OF ARGUMENT

Good cause exists to stay discovery pending the Court's decision on Defendants' Motion to Dismiss because the motion is based on the Complaint's content only, and the motion, if granted, would dispose of Angel Seller, LLC's sole claim against Defendants. Moreover, AS filed this suit as an "end run" around the NY Case, which forbade AS from accessing highly confidential nonparty information through a "fishing expedition." See, e.g., Fossil Group, Inc. v. Angel Seller *LLC*, No. 20CV2441WFKTAM, 2021 WL 8168871, at *2 (E.D.N.Y. Nov. 10, 2021) ("Rather than establishing relevance, Defendants' arguments suggest a fishing expedition involving nonparties."). Here, AS has served Defendants and a third-party Fossil with overbroad and unduly burdensome Requests for Production similar to those it served in the NY Case. A stay is particularly warranted here because AS 1) failed to plead its RICO claim with Fed. R. Civ. P. Rule 9(b)'s required particularity; 2) failed to plausibly plead a pattern of activity, and 3) failed to plausibly plead proximate cause—any one of which provides dismissal grounds. A stay until the Court has ruled on Defendants' Motion to Dismiss would prevent a significant, unnecessary expenditure of resources by the parties. Finally, staying discovery pending the adjudication of Defendants' Motion to Dismiss will not unduly delay AS's access to discovery, as this case is in its infancy.1

II. RELEVANT FACTUAL BACKGROUND

AS has been in litigation for several years in multiple courts due to selling fake Michael Kors watches. *See* Docs. 1 (Complaint) and 10 (Notice of Related Case of proceeding in the Eastern District of New York where Fossil Group, Inc. sued AS and others for sales of counterfeit MK watches). The NY Case, which Defendants provided the Court notice of due to AS's failure

¹ Defendants' Motion to Dismiss is now fully briefed and ripe for decision by the Court.

to do so, *see* Doc. 9 (Motion to Dismiss) at 1–3, was the first case concerning AS's sales of bogus MK watches on Amazon. *Id*.

The parties engaged in multiple rounds of discovery in the NY case that spanned two years. *See Fossil Group, Inc. v. Angel Seller LLC*, No. 20CV02441HGTAM, 2022 WL 4131963, at * 3 (E.D.N.Y. Sept. 12, 2022). ("As the R&R stated, fact discovery, which took two years to complete, has *finally* closed after seven extensions were granted. The parties were engaged in prolonged fact discovery disputes during this period, filing over 10 discovery motions.) (internal citations omitted) (emphasis orig.). AS, late in the case, attempted to add a civil RICO claim virtually identical to the one here. *See id.* at * 5, 9; Doc. 9 at 1–3. But the NY court rejected that attempt for several reasons, including futility, undue delay, and undue prejudice. *Fossil Group, Inc*, 2022 WL 4131963, at *3. The NY court observed that a RICO claim would result in significant additional discovery expense:

Given the breadth and nature of Defendants' proposed RICO allegations, it is hard to imagine more prejudicial counterclaims than those sought to be added here. Indeed, "[a]llowing defendant to assert a RICO counterclaim at this time would not only dramatically change the nature of the litigation but would also result in significant additional expenses to plaintiffs...Accordingly, the Court rejects Defendants' "argument that any additional discovery would not be unduly burdensome to plaintiffs."

Id. at 5 (quoting Am. Soc'y for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals v. Ringling Bros. & Barnum & Bailey Circus, 244 F.R.D. 49, 51 (D.D.C.)). The NY Court also rejected AS's earlier attempts to gain access to nonparty discovery as attempts to engage in a "fishing expedition." See, e.g., Fossil Group, Inc. v. Angel Seller LLC, 2021 WL 8168871, at *2 (noting same).

Undeterred, AS sued in this District, asserting baseless, virtually identical civil RICO allegations against two Fossil employees (including Ms. Barnes, who caught AS selling counterfeits) to try to obtain discovery foreclosed to it in the NY Case.

III. ARGUMENT & AUTHORITIES

A. Standard Governing Motions to Stay Discovery.

The Court has "broad discretion and inherent power to stay discovery until preliminary questions that may dispose of the case are determined." *Fujita v. U.S.*, 416 Fed. Appx. 400, 402 (5th Cir. 2011) (quoting *Petrus v. Bowen*, 833 F.2d 581, 583 (5th Cir. 1987)); *see also Landis v. N. Am. Co.*, 299 U.S. 248, 254 (1936) ("[T]he power to stay proceedings is incidental to the power inherent in every court to control the disposition of the causes on its docket with economy of time and effort for itself, for counsel, and for litigants."). Thus, "a district court can limit discovery and 'make any order which justice requires to protect a party or person from annoyance, embarrassment, oppression, or undue burden or expense." *Griffin v. Am. Zurich Ins. Co.*, No. 3:14-CV-2470-P, 2015 WL 11019132, at *2 (N.D. Tex. Mar. 18, 2015) (quoting FED. R. CIV. P. 26(c)). Put succinctly, "[A] [sic] trial court may properly exercise its discretion to stay discovery pending a decision on a dispositive motion." *Id.* (alteration original) (quoting *Corwin v. Marney, Orton Invs.*, 843 F.2d 194, 200 (5th Cir. 1988)).

A federal district court has discretion to stay discovery "for good cause shown." *Von Drake v. National Broad. Co.*, No. 3:04-CV-0652-R, 2004 WL 1144142, at *1 (N.D. Tex. May 20, 2004) (citing FED. R. CIV. P. 26(c)). Factors informing the court's discretion include: "(1) the breadth of discovery sought; (2) the burden of responding to such discovery; and (3) the strength of the dispositive motion filed by the party seeking a stay." *Id.*, citing *Spencer Trask Software and Info. Services, LLC v. RPost Int'l Ltd.*, 206 F.R.D. 367, 368 (S.D.N.Y. 2002) (citations omitted). "[A]busive litigation tactics by the [P]laintiff" also factor into the analysis, *see Griffin*, 2015 WL 11019132, at *3 (showing same), and non-movant must show that a temporary stay of discovery will not substantially or unduly delay the litigation should its claims survive summary dismissal.

Von Drake, 2004 WL 1144142, at *2 ("Plaintiff has not shown that a temporary stay of discovery will substantially or unduly delay the litigation should his claims survive summary dismissal."). Courts find that cases alleging civil RICO claims, particularly those derived from discovery obtained in related cases, are good candidates for Motions to Stay. See, e.g., Guajardo v. Martinez, No. 2:14-CV-450, 2015 WL 12831683, at *2 (S.D. Tex. Dec. 22, 2015) (granting Motion to Stay Discovery pending Motion to Dismiss based on same). See also Navajo Health Found-Sage Mem'l Hosp., Inc. v. Razaghi Dev. Co., LLC, No. 219CV00329GMNEJY, 2021 WL 1397229, at *6 (D. Nev. Jan. 15, 2021), report and recommendation adopted, No. 219CV00329GMNEJY, 2021 WL 961746 (D. Nev. Mar. 15, 2021) ("Here, a preliminary peek at Defendants' pending Motion to Dismiss (ECF No. 46) demonstrates a likelihood of success with respect to Defendants' argument that Plaintiff fails to plead its federal civil RICO and civil RICO conspiracy claims, as well as its Nevada civil RICO and civil RICO conspiracy claims, with particularity. The Court also finds that Defendants' Motion on this, and all other issues presented, can be decided without discovery.") See also Canyon Cnty. v. Syngenta Seeds, Inc., No. CV 05-306-S-EJL, 2005 WL 8165145, at *2 (D. Idaho Oct. 28, 2005) (RICO claim) ("Thus, requiring Defendants and other non-parties to respond to apparently burdensome discovery requests would result in a substantial waste of resources. For this reason and because it does not appear that discovery would significantly illuminate the issues presented in the pending motions to dismiss, discovery will be stayed pending resolution of Defendants' motions to dismiss.").

B. The Court should Stay Discovery Pending the Motion to Dismiss's Adjudication.

1. AS seeks overbroad and irrelevant categories of documents, much of which was already sought in the NY Case.

AS's overbroad and irrelevant RFPs impose great expense and burden prior to a resolution of Defendants' Motion to Dismiss, including the following:

Request No. 2: This Request demands "all communications pertaining to allegations of the counterfeit sale of Michael Kors ("MK") watches made to Amazon and/or Wal Mart against any seller of these watches in 2018–2021." Exhibit 1, AS's First Requests for Production in Texas action (APP 005, Request for Production No. 2). Such a request demands vast swathes of documents unrelated to AS's sales of fake MK watches, seeking any scrap of paper pertaining to the sale of counterfeit watches in a four-year period. What's more, this request implicates documents already requested in the NY case. See, e.g., Exhibit 2, AS's First Requests for Production in NY action (APP 013, Requests for Production No. 1, 3, 6) and (APP 015, Requests for Production No. 14 and 15); Exhibit 4, AS's Third Requests for Production in NY action (APP 035, Request for Production No. 103) and (APP 036, Request for Production No. 105).

Request No 3: This Request demands "all communications between you and Amazon or Wal Mart regarding [AS] and any other seller of MK products involving the sale of counterfeit Michael Kors products between 2018–2021." Exhibit 1, AS's First Requests for Production in Texas action (APP 005, Request for Production No. 3). This Request, even broader than the one above, demands not only every item that discusses counterfeit MK watches implicating any possible seller beyond AS, it demands that Defendants turn over all communications with Amazon and Wal-Mart that have to do with counterfeit MK products generally. Id.

RFP 3 seeks items having nothing to do with <u>AS's</u> sales of counterfeit watches over a four-year period. *Id.* Moreover, it seeks counterfeit reports made to Amazon and Wal-Mart not only of MK watches, but of *any counterfeited MK products generally*. *Id.* This is a suit about AS's sale of counterfeit MK watches, *not* a suit about reports of any sellers of counterfeit MK goods. *See generally* Doc. 1 (Complaint) (demonstrating that suit largely centers on whether AS sold counterfeit MK watches). Indeed, AS already requested and received items implicated by this RFP

in the NY Case, namely those items pertaining to AS. See, e.g., Exhibit 2, AS's First Requests for Production in NY action (APP 013, Request for Production No. 3) which states: "All communications between Fossil and Amazon relating to Angel Seller and/or the Anger Seller Storefront." Also see (APP 015, Request for Production No. 14) which states: "All documents and communications relating to any allegedly counterfeit MK Products purchased by Fossil from Angel Seller and/or the Angel Seller Storefront."

Request No. 4: This Request demands "All communications between you and MK relating to the sale of counterfeit products." Exhibit 1, AS's First Requests for Production in Texas action (APP 005, Request for Production No. 4). This overbroad Request does not restrain itself to AS, to MK watches, or even Amazon and Wal Mart sales. Instead, it seeks any communication to MK concerning the sale of any counterfeit products. This RFP exemplifies overbreadth.

Request No. 9: This Request seeks "All documents indicating how you determined *all* other sellers of MK products were counterfeits in cases in which you submitted a complaint against those sellers to Amazon and/or Wal Mart." (See APP 006, Request for Production No. 9). Again, this Request does not restrain itself to AS or to MK watches. Instead, it seeks any and all documents concerning the sale of any type of MK counterfeit products by parties other than AS.

These Requests for Production, so broad as to encompass highly confidential information from nonparties, merit stay relief. This is especially true here where AS's only claim is a RICO claim for which AS served similar RFPs in the NY case. Here, AS seeks a repeat of discovery from the NY case. This is inefficient and can potentially lead to inconsistent discovery outcomes. Cases alleging civil RICO claims where the plaintiff has *already begun an investigation into the facts based on discovery from a related case* (such as here, the exchange of documents in the NY Case) are prime candidates for stays pending motions to dismiss. *See, e.g., Guajardo*, 2015 WL

12831683, at *2. Like in *Guajardo* (where the Court entered a motion to stay discovery pending a motion to dismiss), AS concocted the "basis" of its baseless civil RICO case based on discovery obtained in a related case. *See id*. ("The Court infers that Plaintiffs' allegations that form the basis of their RICO claims developed from discovery in a related case in the Houston Division, which involved the same parties as the instant case. With Defendants' motion to dismiss pending, Defendants have shown good cause for staying discovery.") (internal citation omitted).

Furthermore, here, Defendants' motion is to be decided on the content of AS's Complaint. The Fifth Circuit has recognized that a stay of discovery is appropriate where a preliminary motion asking for dismissal of the case is pending because: (1) such motions are decided based on the content of the complaint only, without regard to facts obtained during discovery; and (2) the motion, if granted, would dispose of the case, thus avoiding the effect and expense of discovery. See Dowdy & Dowdy P'ship v. Arbitron Inc., No. 2:09-CV253, 2010 WL 3893915, at *1 (S.D. Miss. Sept. 30, 2010) (citing Landry v. Air Line Pilots Ass'n Int'l AFL-CIO, 901 F.2d 404, 435-36 (5th Cir. 1990)). See also Chudasama v. Mazda Motor Corp., 123 F.3d 1353, 1367 (11th Cir. 1997). ("Facial challenges to the legal sufficiency of a claim or defense, such as a motion to dismiss based on failure to state a claim for relief, should...be resolved before discovery begins.").

Finally, the discovery here is so overbroad that it covers documents from nonparties. A Sister District granted a stay of discovery pending adjudication of a motion to dismiss when the plaintiff demanded documents early in the case concerning many nonparties over the span of five years, particularly given how overbroad such requests were. *See Von Drake*, 2004 WL 1144142, at *2 ("Moreover, many of the interrogatories and document requests served on defendants are overly broad and harassing.").

Thus, AS's overbroad requests, particularly in light of the duplicative discovery that has already occurred in the NY Case, are abusive and merit a discovery stay until the Court adjudicates AS's Motion to Dismiss. *See supra* at 2 (discussing NY Case context in more detail).

2. AS's RFPs harass and impose significant undue burdens on Defendants.

AS's RFPs impose a significant undue burden on Defendants. These RFPs require Defendants to search for and provide vast quantities of largely irrelevant documents—an exercise their employer Fossil went through in the NY Case. For example:

Request No. 1: This Request demands "All communications and documents pertaining to [AS] and/or Eric Sternberg." Exhibit 1, AS's First Requests for Production in Texas action (APP 005, Request for Production No. 1). But AS already requested and received such documents in response to similar requests that it propounded in the NY Case. See, e.g., Exhibit 2, AS's First Requests for Production in NY action (APP 013, Requests for Production Nos. 1, 3, 5, 6) and (APP 018, Request for Production No. 32); Exhibit 3, AS's Second Requests for Production in NY action (APP 024, Requests for Production Nos. 44, 46). Forcing Defendants to go through this exercise to produce items in AS's possession from the NY Case harasses Defendants and imposes an undue burden.

Request No. 2: Similarly unduly burdensome is AS's request for "all communications pertaining to allegations of the counterfeit sale of Michael Kors ("MK") watches made to Amazon and/or Wal Mart against any seller of these watches in 2018–2021." Exhibit 1, AS's First Requests for Production in Texas action (APP 005, Request for Production No. 2). This request demands documents that have nothing to do with AS's sales of fake MK watches, seeking any scrap of paper pertaining to allegations of the sale of MK counterfeit watches in a four-year period. And this request implicates documents already demanded in the NY case. See, e.g., Exhibit 2, AS's First Requests for Production in NY action (APP 013, Requests for Production Nos. 1, 3, 6) and (APP

015, Requests for Production Nos. 14, 15); **Exhibit 4** *AS's Third Requests for Production in NY action* (APP 035, Request for Production No. 103 and APP 036, Request for Production No. 105). Thus, this Request harasses and unduly burdens Defendants.

Request No. 3: This Request demands "all communications between you and Amazon or Wal Mart regarding [AS] and any other seller of MK products involving the sale of counterfeit Michael Kors products between 2018–2021." Exhibit 1, AS's First Requests for Production in Texas action (APP 005, Request for Production No. 3). The same issues that make this Request overbroad make it unduly burdensome. Again, this RFP seeks items that have nothing to do with AS's sales of MK counterfeit watches over a four-year period. Id. It also seeks counterfeit reports made to Amazon and Wal Mart not just of MK watches, but of any counterfeited MK products generally. Id. This is a suit about AS's sale of counterfeit MK watches, not a suit about any reports of all sellers of counterfeit MK goods. See generally Doc. 1 (Complaint) (demonstrating that suit largely centers on whether AS sold counterfeit MK watches).

Moreover, AS already requested and received items implicated by this RFP in the NY Case. See, e.g., **Exhibit 2**, *AS's First Requests for Production in NY action*, APP 013, Request for Production No. 3, which states: "All communications between Fossil and Amazon relating to Angel Seller and/or the Anger Seller Storefront.", and APP 015, Request for Production No. 14: "All documents and communications relating to any allegedly counterfeit MK Products purchased by Fossil from Angel Seller and/or the Angel Seller Storefront." This RFP harasses Defendants and imposes an undue burden by duplicating discovery from the EDNY case, causing double efforts and inefficiencies.

Request No. 4: The overbreadth of AS's demand for "All communications between you and MK relating to the sale of counterfeit products" is astounding. Exhibit 1 AS's First Requests

for Production in Texas action (APP 005, Request for Production No. 4). This RFP seeks any communication to MK concerning the sale of any counterfeit product; it does not restrict itself to AS, to MK watches, or even sales made on Amazon and Wal-Mart. AS's demand that Defendants sort through and produce reams of irrelevant information is harassment, imposes undue burden and is simply a fishing expedition.

AS's overbroad requests, demanding large amounts of highly confidential information (including third-party information) that Defendants' employer Fossil dealt with in the NY Case, merit stay relief. See Von Drake, 2004 WL 1144142, at *2 ("Moreover, many of the interrogatories and document requests served on defendants are overly broad and harassing."). AS's overbroad requests also require Defendants to expend significant time and resources, causing undue burden that merits a stay until the Court adjudicates the Motion to Dismiss. See, e.g., Vanderlan v. Jackson HMA, LLC, No. 3:15-CV-767-DPJ-FKB, 2017 WL 9360854, at *1 (S.D. Miss. Dec. 22, 2017) (staying discovery because defendant "present[ed] a convincing argument that, given the nature of the claims, the potential cost it faces in responding to discovery, particularly with regard to collection, identification, and production of documents, may be substantial. A stay until the Court has ruled on [defendant]'s motion to dismiss would potentially prevent a significant, unnecessary expenditure of resources by the parties."). Moreover, this case is like *Guajardo*, where the Court stayed discovery pending a motion to dismiss a civil RICO case because of the immense burden imposed on Defendants in such cases. See Guajardo, 2015 WL 12831683, at *2 ("Because Plaintiffs allege complex claims under civil RICO, Defendants' concerns about the cost and inconvenience of discovery are reasonable."). The Court should thus stay discovery pending the resolution of Defendants' Motion to Dismiss.

3. AS's RFPs cause unnecessary expense and are part of its abusive litigation tactics.

AS's RFPs are a part of its efforts to (1) harass Fossil, through Defendants, for Fossil's trademark infringement suit against AS arising out of AS selling fake MK watches on Amazon, and (2) gain access to documents denied to AS in the NY case. AS served its discovery just hours after the Rule 26 conference. *See* Exhibit 5, e-mail from Plaintiff propounding Plaintiff's First Requests for Production on Defendants hours after Rule 26(f) conference (APP 039); *cf. Von Drake*, 2004 WL 1144142, at *1–2 (staying discovery pending Motion to Dismiss where plaintiff served overly broad, harassing, and unduly burdensome RFPs at start of litigation).

AS seeks to unduly burden Defendants by requesting production of (overwhelmingly irrelevant) highly confidential documents and communications concerning non-parties. *See supra* at 6-7 (discussing same in more detail). The NY court made clear in its Order denying discovery that AS's shotgun discovery approach reveals a fishing expedition motive:

As discussed at the November 8 hearing, the allegations in this case concern specific trademark infringement claims involving seven watch models identified in the Amended Complaint. In this context, Defendants[AS, its principal Eric Sternberg, and others] have not adequately articulated how the specific, granular history of Plaintiffs' brand protection efforts, which involved test purchases from different sellers at different times over a span of years, are relevant to the claims in this case. The relevancy theories posited in Defendants' motion and their assertion that they could attempt to locate authentic Michael Kors products from these sellers are speculative at best, and do not seem likely to lead to admissible evidence relevant to the claims in this case. Rather than establishing relevance, Defendants' arguments suggest a fishing expedition involving non-parties.

Fossil Group, Inc., 2021 WL 8168871, at *2 (internal citation omitted) (emphasis added). AS, undeterred, filed this suit as an attempt to "end-run" around the NY Case by suing in this District, not giving this Court notice of the related case under the Local Rules, then asserting baseless RICO allegations to try to obtain highly confidential nonparty information that spans several years. The following examples show the duplicative nature of AS's discovery requests:

Requests propounded in this case	AS's overlapping RFPs from NY case	
Request No. 1: All communications and	This Request implicates requests AS already	
documents pertaining to Angel Seller, LLC	propounded in the NY Case. See, e.g., Exhibit	
("AS") and/or Eric Sternberg. Exhibit 1 (AS's	2 (AS's 1st RFPs NY action) Requests Nos. 1,	
RFPs TX action) at APP 005.	3, 5, 6 at APP 013 and Request No. 32 at APP	
Title in action, at the coor.	018;	
	Exhibit 3 (AS's 2d RFPs NY action) Request	
	`	
D4 N- 2 "A11	Nos. 44, 46 at APP 024.	
Request No. 2: "All communications	This Request implicates requests AS already	
pertaining to allegations of the counterfeit sale	propounded in the NY Case. See, e.g., Exhibit	
of Michael Kors ("MK") watches made to	2 (AS's 1st RFPs NY action) Request Nos. 1,	
Amazon and/or Wal Mart against any seller of	3, 6 at APP 013 and Requests Nos. 14, 15 at	
these watches in 2018-2021." Exhibit 1 (AS's	APP 015;	
RFPs TX action) at APP 005.	Exhibit 4 (AS's 3rd RFPs NY action) Request	
	No. 103 at APP 035 and Request No. 105 at	
	APP 036.	
Request No. 3: All communications between	This Request implicates requests AS already	
you and Amazon or Wal Mart regarding Angel	propounded in the NY Case. See, e.g., Exhibit	
Seller ("AS") and any other seller of Michael	2 (AS's 1st RFPs NY action) Request Nos. 3,	
Kors ("MK") products involving the sale of	5, 6 at APP 013 and Request No. 14 at APP	
counterfeit Michael Kors products between	015.	
2018–2021. Exhibit 1 (AS's RFPs TX action)	013.	
at APP 005.		
	This Descript involves as syerts AS almost	
Request No. 4: "All communications between	This Request implicates requests AS already	
you and MK relating to the sale of counterfeit	propounded in the NY Case. See, e.g., Exhibit	
products." Exhibit 1 (AS's RFPs TX action) at	2 (AS's 1st RFPs NY action) Request Nos. 1,	
APP 005.	2 at APP 013 and Request No. 14 at APP 015.	
Request No. 5: "All documents indicating a	This Request implicates requests AS already	
protocol, procedure or history reflecting how	propounded in the NY Case. See, e.g., Exhibit	
you handle allegations of counterfeit sales of	2 (AS's 1st RFPs NY action) at Request No. 1	
MK products." Exhibit 1 (AS's RFPs TX	at APP 013, Request No. 14 at APP 015,	
action) at APP 005.	Request No. 34 at APP 018, Request No. 42 at	
	APP 019;	
	Exhibit 3 (AS's 2 nd RFPs NY action) Request	
	No. 44 at APP 024;	
	Exhibit 4 (AS's 3 rd RFPs NY action) Request	
	No. 103 at APP 035.	
Request No. 6: "All documents indicating the	This Request implicates requests AS already	
number of complaints you have made or	propounded in the NY Case. See, e.g., Exhibit	
approved of making to Amazon and Wal Mart	2 (AS's 1st RFPs NY action) Request Nos. 1–	
against any online seller of MK products for	3 at APP 013;	
selling counterfeit MK products." Exhibit 1	Exhibit 4 (AS's 3 rd RFPs NY action) at	
(AS's RFPs TX action) at APP 005.	Request No. 105 at APP 036.	
Request No. 7: "All documents indicating	This Request implicates requests AS already	
your qualifications to judge the authenticity of	propounded in the NY Case. See, e.g., Exhibit	

watches." Exhibit 1 (AS's RFPs TX action) at	2 (AS's 1 st RFPs NY action) Requests 15, 16		
APP 005.	at APP 015;		
	Exhibit 3 (AS's 2 nd RFPs NY action) Request		
	44 at APP 024.		
Request No. 8: "All documents indicating	This Request implicates requests AS already		
how you determined that AS was selling			
counterfeit MK products." Exhibit 1 (AS's	2 (AS's 1 st RFPs NY action) Request Nos. 15–		
RFPs TX action) at APP 005.	16 at APP 015;		
,	Exhibit 3 (AS's 2 nd RFPs NY action) at		
	Request Nos. 44–99 at APP 024 – APP 032.		
Request No. 9: "All documents indicating	This Request implicates requests AS already		
how you determined all other sellers of MK			
products were counterfeits in cases in which			
you submitted a complaint against those sellers	` / 1		
to Amazon and/or Wal Mart." Exhibit 1 (AS's	019;		
RFPs TX action) at APP 006.	Exhibit 4 (AS's 3 rd RFPs NY action) Request		
,	No. 103 at APP 035 and Request No. 105 at		
	APP 036.		
Request No. 10: "All documents indicating	This Request implicates requests AS already		
the involvement or approval of any other			
person in the decision to submit complaint(s)			
against AS for selling counterfeit MK products	ts 013, Request Nos. 14–15 at APP 015;		
and the submission of such complaints."	" Exhibit 3 (AS's 2 nd RFPs NY action) Request		
Exhibit 1 (AS's RFPs TX action) at APP 006.	44 at APP 024.		

AS should not be allowed to engage in such abusive litigation tactics. The Court should stay discovery until the Motion to Dismiss is adjudicated. *See, e.g., Griffin,* 2015 WL 11019132, at *3 (showing that abusive litigation tactics weigh in favor of instituting discovery stays in discussion of *Von Drake*, 2004 WL 1144142); *see also, e.g., See Guajardo*, 2015 WL 12831683, at *2 (staying discovery pending motion to dismiss in civil RICO case because plaintiffs formed basis of civil RICO claim based on discovery they obtained in a related case).

4. AS suffers neither substantial nor undue delay from the requested stay.

AS will not suffer any substantial or undue delay if the Court grants Defendants' requested stay. This case is in its beginning stages and AS already has responsive, relevant documents from the RFPs it propounded in the NY case. Instead, a discovery stay pending the Court's resolution of Defendants' Motion to Dismiss avoids substantial expense and inefficiencies. A temporary

discovery stay also avoids the expense and inefficiencies of discovery disputes the parties will encounter due to AS's abusive, overbroad, and unduly burdensome requests in a suit AS filed as an attempted end-run around its discovery failures in the NY Case. *See generally, supra*. Should the Court institute the stay but ultimately deny the Motion to Dismiss, discovery would reopen and the parties will have ample time to engage in the discovery process. *See Shaver v. Barrett Daffin Frappier Turner & Engel, L.L.P.*, 593 F. App'x 265, 274 (5th Cir. 2014) ("It is not uncommon to stay discovery pending a decision on a motion to dismiss, insofar as a Rule 12(b)(6) motion focuses on the adequacy of the pleadings").

Moreover, AS should not be allowed to use the discovery process during the pendency of Defendants' Motion to Dismiss to attempt to substantiate claims that lack particularity. *Shaver*, 593 F. App'x at 274 (5th Cir. 2014) (discovery stay not uncommon pending a decision on a Rule 12(b)(6) motion to dismiss that is based on the adequacy of the pleadings where plaintiff could use discovery in an attempt to "obtain enough evidence to succeed on the merits") (citing *Ferrer v. Chevron Corp.*, 484 F.3d 776, 782 (5th Cir.2007)); *Kaylor v. Fields*, 661 F.2d 1177, 1184 (8th Cir.1981) ("Discovery should follow the filing of a well-pleaded complaint. It is not a device to enable a plaintiff to make a case when his complaint has failed to state a claim.").

Although there is little prejudice to staying discovery, great costs will be incurred if discovery is allowed to proceed prior to resolution of Defendants' Motion to Dismiss. It behooves the parties and the Court to avoid time consuming and costly discovery, including discovery disputes, when the ruling on the Motion to Dismiss could render those efforts entirely unnecessary. *See Chudasama*, 123 F.3d at 1368 ("Allowing a case to proceed through the pretrial processes with an invalid claim that increases the costs of the case does nothing but waste the resources of the

litigants, squander scarce judicial resources, and damage the integrity and the public's perception of the federal judicial system.").

5. The Motion to Dismiss demonstrates the fatal flaws in AS's RICO claim.

Defendants' Motion to Dismiss presents strong grounds on which the Court should dismiss AS's claims. *See* Docs. 9 (Motion to Dismiss), 17 (Reply). AS's Complaint teems with 12(b)(6) and 9(b) deficiencies, any one of which supports dismissal, particularly when viewed through the exacting lens required at the outset in civil RICO claims. *Id. See Von Drake*, 2004 WL 1144142, at *2 (granting motion to stay discovery) ("Although the magistrate judge cannot predict the outcome of defendants' motion to dismiss, a cursory review of the motion reveals that defendants have substantial arguments for dismissal of many, if not all, of plaintiffs' claims.").

Here, Defendants have good cause to stay discovery because resolution of the Motion to Dismiss may dispose of the action, thus avoiding the expense of discovery entirely. Further, Defendants' Motion to Dismiss may be decided as a matter of law based on the content of AS's Complaint. Defendants' Motion to Dismiss challenges the legal sufficiency of AS's RICO claim that does not require any discovery before the Court rules on the purely legal questions presented. Defendants' Motion to Dismiss notes that AS (1) fails to plead its RICO claim to meet Rule 9(b)'s particularity requirements, (2) fails to plausibly plead a pattern of activity, and (3) fails to plausibly allege proximate cause. Considering AS's failure to plead a cognizable RICO claim against Defendants, as well as the significant burden Defendants will face due to the breadth of AS's RFPs, a discovery stay is warranted.

IV. CONCLUSION & PRAYER

Defendants thus ask that the Court grant their Motion to Stay Discovery until the Court resolves Defendants' Motion to Dismiss. Defendants also request all further relief in law or equity to which they may show themselves to be justly entitled.

Dated: July 17, 2023 Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Alan Dabdoub

Alan Dabdoub
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adabdoub@lynnllp.com
Nathaniel A. Plemons
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LYNN PINKER HURST & SCHWEGMANN, LLP 2100 Ross Avenue, Suite 2700 Dallas, Texas 75201 (214) 981-3800 Telephone (214) 981-3839 Facsimile

ATTORNEYS FOR DEFENDANTS

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

The undersigned hereby certifies that on July 17, 2023 a true and correct copy of the above and foregoing document has been served on all counsel of record via the Court's ECF system.

/s/ Alan Dabdoub
Alan Dabdoub

CERTIFICATE OF CONFERENCE

The undersigned hereby certifies that on June 2, 2023 counsel for Defendants conferred with Counsel for Plaintiff via telephone regarding this Motion under Local Rule CV-7(h)–(i), who indicated that Plaintiff opposes the relief requested herein.

/s/ Alan Dabdoub

Alan Dabdoub

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS SHERMAN DIVISION

ANGEL SELLER, LLC,	§	
	§	
Plaintiff,	§	
	§	
v.	§	Civil Action No. 4:23-CV-00111-SDJ
	§	
RANDY HYNE and AMBER BARNES,	§	
	§	
Defendants.	§	

APPENDIX IN SUPPORT OF DEFENDANTS' MOTION TO STAY DISCOVERY

Defendants Randy Hyne and Amber Barnes ("Defendants") file this Appendix in Support of Defendants' Motion to Stay Discovery:

Exhibit	Description	Pages
1	Plaintiff Angel Seller LLC's First Set of Requests for the Production of Documents and Things to Defendants Randy Hyne and Amber Barnes	APP 001 – APP 006
2	Defendant Angel Seller LLC's First Set of Requests for the Production of Documents and Things to Plaintiff Fossil Group, Inc. (New York action)	APP 007 – APP 021
3	Defendant Angel Seller LLC's Second Set of Requests for the Production of Documents and Things to Plaintiff Fossil Group, Inc. (New York action)	APP 022 – APP 033
4	Defendant Angel Seller LLC's Third Set of Requests for the Production of Documents and Things to Plaintiff Fossil Group, Inc. (New York action)	APP 034 – APP 038
5	Plaintiff Counsel's June 2, 2023 email to Defendants' Counsel serving Plaintiff's First Set of Requests for Production	APP 039

Date: July 17, 2023 Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Alan Dabdoub

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ATTORNEYS FOR DEFENDANTS RANDY HYNE AND AMBER BARNES

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

The undersigned hereby certifies that a true and correct copy of the foregoing has been served upon all counsel of record *via e-file* on July 17, 2023.

/s/ Alan Dabdoub
Alan Dabdoub

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT EASTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS, SHERMAN DIVISION

ANGEL SELLER, LLC,

Plaintiff

Case No. 4:23-cv-00111-SDJ

v.

RANDY HYNE and AMBER BARNES

Defendants.

PLAINTIFF ANGEL SELLER LLC'S FIRST SET OF REQUESTS FOR THE PRODUCTION OF DOCUMENTS AND THINGS TO DEFENDANTS RANDY HYNE AND AMBER BARNES

Plaintiff Angel Seller, LLC ("<u>Angel Seller</u>"), by and through its counsel, hereby requests that Defendants Randy Hyne and Amber Barnes ("<u>Defendants</u>"), pursuant to Rules 26 and 34 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, produce the below-identified things and copies of responsive documents in Defendants' possession, custody, or control to the office of Padfield & Stout, LLP, Attn: Brandon J. Gibbons, 420 Throckmorton, Suite 1210, Ft. Worth, TX 76102, within thirty (30) days of service hereof, or at such other time and place as may be mutually agreed upon by the parties, in accordance with the Definitions and Instructions set forth herein.

DEFINITIONS AND INSTRUCTIONS

- 1. "You" and "Your" shall mean Defendants Randy Hyne and Amber Barnes.
- 2. "Fossil" shall mean Fossil Group, Inc., and any of its divisions, subsidiaries, and affiliates, and their agents, servants, employees, representatives, officers, directors, accountants, attorneys, persons, or entities under its control, or acting or purporting to act on their behalf.
- 3. "MK" means Michael Kors, L.L.C., and any of its divisions, subsidiaries, and affiliates, and their agents, servants, employees, representatives, officers, directors, accountants, attorneys, persons or entities under its control, or acting or purporting to act on their behalf.



- 4. "Amazon" means Amazon.com, Inc., and any of its divisions, subsidiaries, and affiliates, and its agents, servants, employees, representatives, officers, directors, accountants, attorneys, persons or entities under its control, or acting or purporting to act on its behalf.
- 5. "Angel Seller Storefront" shall mean the Amazon storefront bearing the name "Angel Seller" and having merchant ID: A1MXFBSEZT410T.
- 6. "Angel Seller" means Defendant Angel Seller, LLC, the owner and operator of the Angel Seller Storefront.
- 7. "Complaint" means the Complaint filed by Angel Seller in this action on or about February 10, 2023.
 - 8. The terms "including" and "includes" shall mean "including, but not limited to."
- 9. "Date" shall mean the exact day, month and year, if ascertainable, or if not, the best approximately ascertainable day, month and year.

INSTRUCTIONS

- A. Unless otherwise noted, this set of Requests requires the production of documents or tangible things that were prepared, created, written, sent, dated, or received at any time up to the present.
- B. In producing documents or tangible things pursuant to these Requests, you must produce documents as they are kept in the usual course of business or label the documents to correspond to the categories in the document requests in accordance with Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 34(b). For electronically stored information, the responsive materials shall be produced in the form in which it is ordinarily maintained, shall include any and all associated metadata and any and all associated files, and should identify the custodian from whom the information came.
- C. You are required, in responding to these Requests, to obtain and produce all documents in the possession of, available to, or under the control of You, Your attorney, or any of Your agents.
- D. Where a specified document is requested, such Request shall be interpreted to include any other documents where it is known that such other documents contain information relevant to the Request.
- E. If a document described by the Request was, but no longer is, in existence or subject to the control of You, Your attorney, or any of Your agents, state: the last known location of that document; the names and addresses of all persons with knowledge of the content of that document; and why the document is no longer in existence or subject to such control.
- F. These Requests shall be deemed to be continuing; therefore, if a document described by this request is not in existence or subject to the control of You, Your attorney, or any of

Your agents at the time of the first response to these requests but later comes into existence or the control of You, Your attorney, or any of Your agents, You must immediately produce that document.

- G. Any Request propounded in the disjunctive shall also be read as propounded in the conjunctive, and vice versa. Any document request propounded in the singular shall also be read as propounded in the plural, and vice versa. Any document request propounded in the present tense shall also be read as propounded in the past tense, and vice versa.
- H. If a Request calls for a response as to which You claim any privilege or any other ground for withholding information or otherwise failing to respond, set forth each and every fact on which Your claim of privilege is based with sufficient specificity to allow the Court to make a determination as to whether Your claim of privilege is valid, including, but not limited to: the number and particular part of the request for production to which the claimed privileged information is responsive; a description of the information or communications; the date and time of the information or communication; the basis upon which the privilege is claimed; the identity of the author; and the identity of each person (other than the attorneys representing You in this action) to whom the information or contents of the communication have been disclosed, either orally or by document. See Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(b)(5).

[Remainder of Page Intentionally Blank]

Request for Production of Documents

Request No. 1

All communications and documents pertaining to Angel Seller, LLC ("AS") and/or Eric Sternberg.

Request No. 2

All communications pertaining to allegations of the counterfeit sale of Michael Kors ("MK") watches made to Amazon and/or Wal Mart against any seller of these watches in 2018-2021.

Request No. 3

All communications between you and Amazon or Wal Mart regarding Angel Seller ("AS") and any other seller of Michael Kors ("MK") products involving the sale of counterfeit Michael Kors products between 2018-2021.

Request No. 4

All communications between you and MK relating to the sale of counterfeit products.

Request No. 5

All documents indicating a protocol, procedure or history reflecting how you handle allegations of counterfeit sales of MK products.

Request No. 6

All documents indicating the number of complaints you have made or approved of making to Amazon and Wal Mart against any online seller of MK products for selling counterfeit MK products.

Request No. 7

All documents indicating your qualifications to judge the authenticity of watches.

Request No. 8

All documents indicating how you determined that AS was selling counterfeit MK products.

Request No. 9

All documents indicating how you determined all other sellers of MK products were counterfeits in cases in which you submitted a complaint against those sellers to Amazon and/or Wal Mart.

Request No. 10

All documents indicating the involvement or approval of any other person in the decision to submit complaint(s) against AS for selling counterfeit MK products and the submission of such complaints.

Request No. 11

All documents indicating who you report to at Fossil and who reports to you.

Respectfully Submitted,

FOSTER P.C. 150 North Wacker Drive, Suite 1925 Chicago, IL 60606 Telephone: 312-726-1600 Facsimile: 866-470-5738

/s/ Howard W. Foster

Howard W. Foster
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bgibbons@padfieldstout.com
Local Counsel for the Plaintiff

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT EASTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

FOSSIL GROUP, INC. and MICHAEL KORS, L.L.C.,

Plaintiffs,

v.

ANGEL SELLER, LLC and JOHN DOES 1-5,

Defendants.

CASE No. 1:20-cv-02441-WFK-JO

DEFENDANT ANGEL SELLER LLC'S FIRST SET OF REQUESTS FOR THE PRODUCTION OF DOCUMENTS AND THINGS TO PLAINTIFF FOSSIL GROUP, INC.

Defendant Angel Seller, LLC, by and through its counsel, hereby requests that Plaintiff Fossil Group, Inc., pursuant to Rules 26 and 34 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, produce the below-identified things and copies of responsive documents in Plaintiff Fossil Group, Inc.'s possession, custody, or control to the office of Amster, Rothstein & Ebenstein, LLP, 90 Park Avenue, 21st Floor, New York, NY 10016 within thirty (30) days of service hereof, or at such other time and place as may be mutually agreed upon by the parties, in accordance with the Definitions and Instructions set forth herein.

DEFINITIONS AND INSTRUCTIONS

1. "Fossil," "You" or "Your" shall mean Fossil Group, Inc., and any of its divisions, subsidiaries, and affiliates, and their agents, servants, employees, representatives, officers, directors, accountants, attorneys, persons or entities under its control, or acting or purporting to act on their behalf.

Defendants' Exhibit

2

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- 2. "MK" means Michael Kors, L.L.C., and any of its divisions, subsidiaries, and affiliates, and their agents, servants, employees, representatives, officers, directors, accountants, attorneys, persons or entities under its control, or acting or purporting to act on their behalf.
- 3. "Amazon" means Amazon.com, Inc., and any of its divisions, subsidiaries, and affiliates, and its agents, servants, employees, representatives, officers, directors, accountants, attorneys, persons or entities under its control, or acting or purporting to act on its behalf.
- 4. "Angel Seller Storefront" shall mean the Amazon storefront bearing the name "Angel Seller" and having merchant ID: A1MXFBSEZT410T.
- 5. "Angel Seller" means Defendant Angel Seller, LLC, the owner and operator of the Angel Seller Storefront.
- 6. The "MK Trademarks" means the trademark registrations identified in the Complaint (ECF No. 1, ¶16), or later asserted in this action.
- 7. "MK Products" means any item or product marketed or sold under the MK Trademarks.
- 8. "MK Test Purchase Models" means each model of MK Product purchased from Angel Seller and/or the Angel Seller Storefront, including MK5354, MK5263, MK5128, MK5353 and MK3192.
- 9. "MK Listings" means Amazon product listings for MK Products, including Amazon Standard Identification Numbers ("ASIN"): B003L0XGDO, B0047UUYR8, B0058GP74U and B009DFSRZS.
- 10. "Complaint" means the Complaint filed by Plaintiffs in this action on or about June 2, 2020.
 - 11. The terms "including" and "includes" shall mean "including, but not limited to."

12. Pursuant to Local Civil Rule 26.3, the definitions and rules of construction set forth in paragraphs (c) and (d) of Local Civil Rule 26.3 are incorporated herein. Such definitions rules are reproduced below for ease of reference:

Local Civil Rule 26.3(c)

- (1) Communication. The term "communication" means the transmittal of information (in the form of facts, ideas, inquiries or otherwise).
- (2) Document. The term "document" is defined to be synonymous in meaning and equal in scope to the usage of the term "documents or electronically stored information" in Fed. R. Civ. P. 34(a)(1)(A). A draft or non-identical copy is a separate document within the meaning of this term.
- (3) Identify (with respect to persons). When referring to a person, "to identify" means to give, to the extent known, the person's full name, present or last known address, and when referring to a natural person, additionally, the present or last known place of employment. Once a person has been identified in accordance with this subparagraph, only the name of that person need be listed in response to subsequent discovery requesting the identification of that person.
- (4) Identify (with respect to documents). When referring to documents, "to identify" means to give, to the extent known, the (i) type of document; (ii) general subject matter; (iii) date of the document; and (iv) author(s), addressee(s) and recipient(s). In the alternative, the responding party may produce the documents, together with identifying information sufficient to satisfy Fed. R. Civ. P. 33(d).
- (5) Parties. The terms "plaintiff" and "defendant" as well as a party's full or abbreviated name or a pronoun referring to a party mean the party and, where

- applicable, its officers, directors, employees, partners, corporate parent, subsidiaries or affiliates. This definition is not intended to impose a discovery obligation on any person who is not a party to the litigation.
- (6) Person. The term "person" is defined as any natural person or any legal entity, including, without limitation, any business or governmental entity or association.
- (7) Concerning. The term "concerning" means relating to, referring to, describing, evidencing or constituting.

Local Civil Rule 26.3(d)

[See also Definitions 1 & 2 above.]

- (1) All/Any/Each. The terms "all," "any," and "each" shall each be construed as encompassing any and all.
- (2) And/Or. The connectives "and" and "or" shall be construed either disjunctively or conjunctively as necessary to bring within the scope of the discovery request all responses that might otherwise be construed to be outside of its scope.
- (3) Number. The use of the singular form of any word includes the plural and vice versa.
- 13. "Date" shall mean the exact day, month and year, if ascertainable, or if not, the best approximately ascertainable day, month and year.

INSTRUCTIONS

- A. Unless otherwise noted, this set of Requests requires the production of documents or tangible things that were prepared, created, written, sent, dated, or received at any time up to the present.
- B. In producing documents or tangible things pursuant to these Requests, You must produce documents as they are kept in the usual course of business or label the documents to

correspond to the categories in the document requests in accordance with Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 34(b). For electronically stored information, the responsive materials shall be produced in the form in which it is ordinarily maintained, shall include any and all associated metadata and any and all associated files, and should identify the custodian from whom the information came.

- C. You are required, in responding to these Requests, to obtain and produce all documents in the possession of, available to, or under the control of You, Your attorney, or any of Your agents.
- D. Where a specified document is requested, such Request shall be interpreted to include any other documents where it is known that such other documents contain information relevant to the Request.
- E. If a document described by the Request was, but no longer is, in existence or subject to the control of You, Your attorney, or any of Your agents, state: the last known location of that document; the names and addresses of all persons with knowledge of the content of that document; and why the document is no longer in existence or subject to such control.
- F. These Requests shall be deemed to be continuing; therefore, if a document described by this request is not in existence or subject to the control of You, Your attorney, or any of Your agents at the time of the first response to these requests but later comes into existence or the control of You, Your attorney, or any of Your agents, You must immediately produce that document.
- G. Any Request propounded in the disjunctive shall also be read as propounded in the conjunctive, and vice versa. *See* Local Civil Rule 26.3(d)(2). Any document request propounded in the singular shall also be read as propounded in the plural, and vice versa. Local

Civil Rule 26.3(d)(3). Any document request propounded in the present tense shall also be read as propounded in the past tense, and vice versa.

H. If a Request calls for a response as to which You claim any privilege or any other ground for withholding information or otherwise failing to respond, set forth each and every fact on which Your claim of privilege is based with sufficient specificity to allow the Court to make a determination as to whether Your claim of privilege is valid, including, but not limited to: the number and particular part of the request for production to which the claimed privileged information is responsive; a description of the information or communications; the date and time of the information or communication; the basis upon which the privilege is claimed; the identity of the author; and the identity of each person (other than the attorneys representing You in this action) to whom the information or contents of the communication have been disclosed, either orally or by document. *See* Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(b)(5); Local Rule 26.2.

REQUESTS

Request No. 1

All communications between Fossil and MK relating to Angel Seller and/or the Angel Seller Storefront.

Request No. 2

All communications between Fossil and MK relating to enforcement of the MK Trademarks on Amazon, including communication relating to the submission of reports of alleged intellectual property violations by third-parties.

Request No. 3

All communications between Fossil and Amazon relating to Angel Seller and/or the Angel Seller Storefront.

Request No. 4

All communications between Fossil and Amazon relating to the MK Listings.

Request No. 5

All documents relating to Fossil's attempts to purchase, and purchases of, MK Products from Angel Seller and/or the Angel Seller Storefront.

Request No. 6

All documents and things concerning Angel Seller and/or the Angel Seller Storefront, including, without limitation, any investigative report, evaluation, inspection, analysis, testing or comparison involving MK Products offered for sale or sold by Angel Seller and/or the Angel Seller Storefront.

Request No. 7

Documents sufficient to show Fossil's total gross revenues and net profits generated from all sales of MK Products on Amazon, including, but not limited to, all relevant accounting records.

Request No. 8

All documents and communications relating to the pricing of MK Products on Amazon, including pricing by third-party sellers.

Request No. 9

All documents concerning Fossil's offer for sale and sale of MK Products, including, but not limited to, sales records, purchase orders, invoices, sales sheets, price lists, customer lists and contracts.

Request No. 10

A copy of each license agreement between Fossil and MK relating to the MK Trademarks.

Request No. 11

All agreements between Fossil and any other person, whereby either Fossil or said person was granted the right to or was prohibited from manufacturing, advertising, distributing, offering for sale or selling MK Products, including, without limitation, manufacturing agreements, distribution agreements, license agreements, settlement agreements and consent agreements.

Request No. 12

All documents concerning all past and existing relationships, including contracts, agreements, licenses, assignments, or other relations, between Fossil and any third party relating to the MK Trademarks.

All documents and communications relating to the distribution, advertising, offer for sale and sale of MK Products by or through Amazon, including all agreements between Fossil and Amazon relating to the distribution, advertising, offer for sale and sale of MK Products.

Request No. 14

All documents and communications relating to any allegedly counterfeit MK Products purchased by Fossil from Angel Seller and/or the Angel Seller Storefront.

Request No. 15

All documents and communications relating to any analysis (scientific or otherwise) of any alleged counterfeit MK Products purchased by Fossil from Angel Seller and/or the Angel Seller Storefront.

Request No. 16

All documents to be relied upon at trial by Fossil regarding the provenance or authenticity of all alleged counterfeit MK Products purchased by Fossil from Angel Seller and/or the Angel Seller Storefront.

Request No. 17

Samples of genuine MK Products and packaging of all such products purchased from Angel Seller and/or the Angel Seller Storefront, including the MK Test Purchase Models.

Request No. 18

Documents itemizing each individual MK Product purchased by Fossil from Angel Seller and/or the Angel Seller Storefront.

All documents and communications that Fossil will rely upon in support of its allegation that Angel Seller is "offering for sale, selling, and using in interstate commerce watches bearing counterfeits and infringements of the Michael Kors Trademarks," as alleged in paragraph 21 of the Complaint.

Request No. 20

All documents and communications relating to the August 2019 purchase made by Fossil's agent referenced in paragraphs 26-27 of the Complaint.

Request No. 21

All documents and communications relating to the report submitted to Amazon referenced in paragraph 28 of the Complaint.

Request No. 22

All documents and communications relating to the February 2020 purchases made by Fossil's agent referenced in paragraphs 33-34 of the Complaint.

Request No. 23

All documents and communications relating to any reports submitted to Amazon in connection with the purchases referenced in paragraphs 33-34 of the Complaint.

Request No. 24

All documents and communications that support Fossil's allegation that MK Products "offered for sale and sold by [Angel Seller] were not manufactured, authorized, or sponsored by Plaintiffs," as alleged in paragraph 39 of the Complaint.

Documents sufficient to identify each manufacturer of genuine MK Products and packaging of all such products purchased from Angel Seller and/or the Angel Seller Storefront, including the MK Test Purchase Models.

Request No. 26

All documents and communications that support Fossil's allegation that "consumers will be confused and disappointed by the differences between the [MK Products] distributed by [Angel Seller] and the genuine Michael Kors merchandise manufactured and sold by Fossil Group," as alleged in paragraph 39 of the Complaint.

Request No. 27

Documents sufficient to identify each of "the differences between the [MK Products] distributed by [Angel Seller] and the genuine Michael Kors merchandise manufactured and sold by Fossil Group," as alleged in paragraph 39 of the Complaint.

Request No. 28

All documents and communications that support Fossil's allegation that Fossil is "losing profits from lost sales of genuine product, suffering a loss of enormous goodwill created in its Michael Kors Trademarks and in Fossil Group, and will continue to suffer such loss if Defendants are allowed to continue their illegal activity," as alleged in paragraph 40 of the Complaint.

Request No. 29

Documents sufficient to identify Fossil's "lost sales of genuine product" referenced in paragraph 40 of the Complaint.

All documents and communications that support Fossil's allegation that Angel Seller is "knowingly, intentionally, and without the consent of Plaintiffs used in commerce reproductions, counterfeits, and/or copies and/or spurious designations that are identical with, or substantially indistinguishable from the Michael Kors Trademarks in connection with the sale, offering for sale, distribution, or advertising of goods covered by USPTO registrations for the Michael Kors Trademarks," as alleged in paragraph 46 of the Complaint.

Request No. 31

All documents pertaining to the investigations conducted by Intellectual Property

Services Inc. relating to the allegedly counterfeit MK Products offered for sale or sold by Angel

Seller.

Request No. 32

All communications between Fossil and Intellectual Property Services Inc. relating to Angel Seller, the Angel Seller Storefront and/or any MK Products sold by Angel Seller.

Request No. 33

Copies of all documents, including field manuals and guides, provided by Fossil to U.S. Customs in connection with enforcement of the MK Trademarks.

Request No. 34

Documents sufficient to identify the "quality controls" identified in Plaintiffs' Initial Disclosures, dated August 26, 2020.

Request No. 35

A copy of each manufacturing drawing and specification for each model of MK Product purchased from Angel Seller, including the MK Test Purchase Models.

Documents sufficient to show each version of the packaging for each model of MK Product purchased from Angel Seller, including the MK Test Purchase Models.

Request No. 37

Documents sufficient to identify each location where each model of MK Product purchased from Angel Seller, including the MK Test Purchase Models, have been manufactured, assembled and/or packaged.

Request No. 38

Documents sufficient to identify each of Fossil's direct customers of MK Products.

Request No. 39

Documents sufficient to identify each of Fossil's distributors of MK Products.

Request No. 40

A copy of each of Fossil's minimum advertised pricing (MAP) agreements and/or policies relating to MK Products, from July 2019-Present.

Request No. 41

A representative copy of each of Fossil's retail partner agreements and/or policies, from July 2019-Present.

Request No. 42

A copy of each of Fossil's policies relating to third-party marketplace sales, July 2019-Present.

Request No. 43

Documents sufficient to identify each of Fossil's sales of MK Products to Amazon between July 2019-Present.

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Dated: September 2, 2020

New York, New York

AMSTER, ROTHSTEIN & EBENSTEIN LLP

By: <u>s/Mark Berkowitz</u>

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Attorneys for Defendant Angel Seller, LLC

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on September 2, 2020, a copy of the foregoing document entitled

DEFENDANT ANGEL SELLER LLC'S FIRST SET OF REQUESTS FOR THE PRODUCTION OF DOCUMENTS AND THINGS TO PLAINTIFF FOSSIL GROUP,

INC. was served via e-mail on the following counsel of record for Plaintiffs in this matter:

Michael Lee Lee Law PLLC 579 Fifth Avenue, 14th Floor New York, NY 10017

Tel: (212) 621-8239

Email: michael@leelawservices.com

s/ Mark Berkowitz

Mark Berkowitz

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT EASTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

FOSSIL GROUP, INC. and MICHAEL KORS, L.L.C.,

Plaintiffs,

v.

ANGEL SELLER, LLC; ERIC STERNBERG; and JOHN DOES 2-5,

Defendants.

Case No. 1:20-cv-02441-WFK-RML

<u>DEFENDANT'S SECOND SET OF REQUESTS FOR THE PRODUCTION OF</u> <u>DOCUMENTS AND THINGS TO PLAINTIFF FOSSIL GROUP, INC.</u>

Defendant Angel Seller, LLC, by and through its counsel, hereby requests that Plaintiff Fossil Group, Inc., pursuant to Rules 26 and 34 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, produce the below-identified things and copies of responsive documents in Plaintiff Fossil Group, Inc.'s possession, custody, or control to the office of Tarter Krinsky & Drogin LLP, 1350 Broadway, New York, New York 10018 within thirty (30) days of service hereof, or at such other time and place as may be mutually agreed upon by the parties, in accordance with the Definitions and Instructions set forth herein.

DEFINITIONS AND INSTRUCTIONS

The Definitions and Instructions set forth in Defendant's First Set of Requests for the Production of Documents and Things to Fossil, Inc. are incorporated by reference as though they are fully set forth herein.

1. "Barnes Declaration" means the March 5, 2021 Declaration of Amber Barnes.

Defendants'
Exhibit
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- 2. "Bracelet Factory Code" means the numerical code referenced in the Exhibits to the March 5, 2021 Declaration of Amber Barnes as the "Bracelet factory code."
- 3. "Box" refers to the protective box that accompanies a watch. Representative examples are shown below:



4. "Batch Code" refers to the alpha/numeric code embossed on each Box. A representative example is shown below:



REQUESTS

Request No. 44

All documents relied upon by Amber Barnes in drafting the Barnes Declaration and the Exhibits thereto.

Request No. 45

Samples of all watches relied upon by Amber Barnes in drafting the Barnes Declaration and the Exhibits thereto.

Request No. 46

All documents relied upon by Fossil in drafting Plaintiffs' motion to strike or, in the alternative, dismiss defendants' amended answer.

Request No. 47

For each MK Test Purchase Model, documents sufficient to identify each movement used in the model, including the manufacturer, model(s), and dates that such movement was utilized.

Request No. 48

For each MK Test Purchase Model, documents sufficient to identify each movement holder used in the model, including the manufacturer, model(s), and dates that such movement was utilized.

Request No. 49

For each MK Test Purchase Model, documents sufficient to identify each component vendor and the components supplied.

Request No. 50

For each MK Test Purchase Model, documents sufficient to identify each contract manufacturer.

For each MK Test Purchase Model, documents sufficient to identify each Bracelet Factory Code associated with the model, including the code and dates that such code was utilized.

Request No. 52

For each MK Test Purchase Model, documents sufficient to identify the hangtag furnished with each model, including the color and printed text.

Request No. 53

For each MK Test Purchase Model, documents sufficient to identify the booklet furnished with each model, including the color and printed text.

Request No. 54

For each MK Test Purchase Model, documents sufficient to identify each case back supplied with the model, including the documents identifying each code located on the inside and outside of the case back, stickers placed on the inside or outside of the case back, and the font, font size and content of all information printed or engraved on the case back.

Request No. 55

For each MK Test Purchase Model, documents sufficient to identify each Box supplied with the model, including the dates that such Box was supplied.

Request No. 56

For each MK Test Purchase Model, documents sufficient to identify each Batch Code included on each Box supplied with the model.

A copy of each document from which each photograph shown in Exhibit 1 to the Barnes Declaration was taken, copied or otherwise reproduced.

Request No. 58

All documents that support or refute Fossil's allegation that the "Bracelet factory code of '112800' is not the correct number" for the watch shown in Exhibit 1 to the Barnes Declaration.

Request No. 59

All documents that support or refute Fossil's allegation that the "Factory code is incorrectly placed above the buckle hole" (and "should be placed beneath the buckle hole") for the watch shown in Exhibit 1 to the Barnes Declaration.

Request No. 60

All documents that support or refute Fossil's allegation that the "Bracelet hole piece is not properly shaped" for the watch shown in Exhibit 1 to the Barnes Declaration.

Request No. 61

All documents that support or refute Fossil's allegation that the "Bracelet factory code should contain the middle digits '98'" for the watch shown in Exhibit 1 to the Barnes Declaration.

Request No. 62

Documents sufficient to identify each crown used on the MK5354 watch, including each "MK" logo included on the crown.

Request No. 63

Documents sufficient to identify each movement used in the MK5354 watch, including the manufacturer, model(s), and dates that such movement was utilized.

All documents that support or refute Fossil's allegation that the "[g]enuine dial date ...
[n]umbering should be tall and skinny," for the watch shown in Exhibit 1 to the Barnes
Declaration.

Request No. 65

A copy of each document from which each photograph shown in Exhibit 2 to the Barnes Declaration was taken, copied or otherwise reproduced.

Request No. 66

All documents that support or refute Fossil's allegation that the "[h]angtag and booklet are the same exact shade of color," for the watch shown in Exhibit 2 to the Barnes Declaration.

Request No. 67

Documents sufficient to identify each crown used on the MK3192 watch, including each "MK" logo included on the crown.

Request No. 68

Documents sufficient to identify each movement used in the MK3192 watch, including the manufacturer, model(s), and dates that such movement was utilized.

Request No. 69

Documents sufficient to identify each movement holder used in the MK3192 watch, including the manufacturer, model(s), and dates that such movement was utilized.

Request No. 70

A copy of each document from which each photograph shown in Exhibit 3 to the Barnes Declaration was taken, copied or otherwise reproduced.

Documents sufficient to identify each movement holder used in the MK5353 watch, including the manufacturer, model(s), and dates that such movement was utilized.

Request No. 72

All documents that support or refute Fossil's allegation that the "[i]nside factory code of case back is not in proper alignment or place" and the "[s]ticker should not be on this model," for the watch shown in Exhibit 3 to the Barnes Declaration.

Request No. 73

All documents that support or refute Fossil's allegation that the "inside factory code" of the MK5353 watch contains the text "OPI CHINA 21," as stated in Exhibit 3 to the Barnes Declaration.

Request No. 74

Documents sufficient to identify each dial font that appeared on the MK5353 watch.

Request No. 75

Documents sufficient to identify each crown used on the MK5353 watch, including each "MK" logo included on the crown.

Request No. 76

Documents sufficient to identify each buckle logo used on the MK5353 watch.

Request No. 77

A copy of each document from which each photograph shown in Exhibit 4 to the Barnes Declaration was taken, copied or otherwise reproduced.

Documents sufficient to identify each movement holder used in the MK5263 watch, including the manufacturer, model(s), and dates that such movement was utilized.

Request No. 79

All documents that support or refute Fossil's allegation that the "Factory code is incorrectly placed above the buckle hole" and the "[b]racelet hole piece is not properly shaped," for the watch shown in Exhibit 4 to the Barnes Declaration.

Request No. 80

Documents sufficient to identify each crown used on the MK5263 watch, including each "MK" logo included on the crown.

Request No. 81

Documents sufficient to identify each case back used on the MK5263 watch, including the font, font size and content of the information on the case back.

Request No. 82

Documents sufficient to identify each dial font that appeared on the MK5263 watch.

Request No. 83

A copy of each document from which each photograph shown in Exhibit 5 to the Barnes Declaration was taken, copied or otherwise reproduced.

Request No. 84

Documents sufficient to identify each movement holder used in the MK5128 watch, including the manufacturer, model(s), and dates that such movement was utilized.

Documents sufficient to identify each movement used in the MK5128 watch, including the manufacturer, model(s), and dates that such movement was utilized.

Request No. 86

All documents that support or refute Fossil's allegation that the "[i]nside factory code of case back is not in proper alignment or place" and the "[s]ticker should not be on this model," for the watch shown in Exhibit 5 to the Barnes Declaration.

Request No. 87

All documents that support or refute Fossil's allegation that the "inside factory code" of the MK5128 watch contains the text "OPI CHINA 21," as stated in Exhibit 5 to the Barnes Declaration.

Request No. 88

All documents that support or refute Fossil's allegation that the "[m]ovement on [a] genuine [MK5128] model should just say 'JP' and not have numbers" as stated in Exhibit 5 to the Barnes Declaration.

Request No. 89

Documents sufficient to identify each case back used on the MK5128 watch, including the font, font size and content of the information on the case back.

Request No. 90

A copy of each document from which each photograph shown in Exhibit 6 to the Barnes Declaration was taken, copied or otherwise reproduced.

Documents sufficient to identify each movement holder used in the MK5076 watch, including the manufacturer, model(s), and dates that such movement was utilized.

Request No. 92

Documents sufficient to identify each movement used in the MK5076 watch, including the manufacturer, model(s), and dates that such movement was utilized.

Request No. 93

All documents that support or refute Fossil's allegation that, in connection with the MK5076 watch, the "watch movement for this model should be 'OS20'" and have "[n]o white plastic stem near battery, as stated in Exhibit 6 to the Barnes Declaration.

Request No. 94

Documents sufficient to identify each case back used on the MK5076 watch, including the font, font size and content of the information on the case back.

Request No. 95

Documents sufficient to identify each buckle logo used on the MK5076 watch.

Request No. 96

A copy of each document from which each photograph shown in Exhibit 7 to the Barnes Declaration was taken, copied or otherwise reproduced.

Request No. 97

Documents sufficient to identify each case back used on the MK5859 watch, including the font, font size and content of the information on the case back.

Request No. 98

Documents sufficient to identify each dial font that appeared on the MK5859 watch.

A copy of each document from which each photograph shown in Exhibit 8 to the Barnes Declaration was taken, copied or otherwise reproduced.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: March 31, 2021 s/Mark Berkowitz

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shudak@tarterkrinsky.com

Attorneys for Defendants

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on March 31, 2021, a copy of the foregoing document entitled

DEFENDANT'S SECOND SET OF REQUESTS FOR THE PRODUCTION OF

DOCUMENTS AND THINGS TO PLAINTIFF FOSSIL GROUP, INC. was served via

e-mail on the following counsel of record for Plaintiffs in this matter:

Michael Lee Lee Law PLLC 579 Fifth Avenue, 14th Floor New York, NY 10017

Tel: (212) 621-8239

Email: michael@leelawservices.com

s/ Mark Berkowitz

Mark Berkowitz

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT EASTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

FOSSIL GROUP, INC. and MICHAEL KORS, L.L.C.,

Plaintiffs,

v.

ANGEL SELLER, LLC; ERIC STERNBERG; and JOHN DOES 2-5,

Defendants.

Case No. 1:20-cv-02441-WFK-TAM

<u>DEFENDANT'S THIRD SET OF REQUESTS FOR THE PRODUCTION OF</u> <u>DOCUMENTS AND THINGS TO PLAINTIFF FOSSIL GROUP, INC.</u>

Defendant Angel Seller, LLC, by and through its counsel, hereby requests that Plaintiff Fossil Group, Inc., pursuant to Rules 26 and 34 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, produce the below-identified things and copies of responsive documents in Plaintiff Fossil Group, Inc.'s possession, custody, or control to the office of Tarter Krinsky & Drogin LLP, 1350 Broadway, New York, New York 10018 within thirty (30) days of service hereof, or at such other time and place as may be mutually agreed upon by the parties, in accordance with the Definitions and Instructions set forth herein.

DEFINITIONS AND INSTRUCTIONS

The Definitions and Instructions set forth in: (i) Defendant's First Set of Requests for the Production of Documents and Things to Fossil Group, Inc. and (ii) Defendant's Second Set of Requests for the Production of Documents and Things to Fossil Group, Inc. are incorporated by reference as though they are fully set forth herein. The following additional definitions are provided:

1

Defendants' Exhibit

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- 1. "Purchase Log" means the log of purchases purportedly compiled by Amber Barnes and produced by Plaintiffs in redacted form on June 16, 2021 as an Excel sheet entitled "Fossil Document Production 6.16.21".
- 2. "Tracing System" means any system, method or technique used to mark, track and/or trace products for any purpose (e.g., anti-diversion, anticounterfeiting and/or product authentication), including the technology offered by ORBID Corporation, Inc. and iTrace Technologies, Inc., and any other system or method referenced in the Purchase Log (e.g., "Orbid").
- 3. "Tracing Mark" means any marking or symbol, whether visible or hidden, used in connection with a Tracing System.

REQUESTS

Request No. 100

Documents sufficient to identify each Tracing System and Tracing Mark used by Fossil in connection with MK Products, from January 1, 2014 – Present.

Request No. 101

Documents sufficient to identify each Tracing System and Tracing Mark used by Fossil in connection with the MK Test Purchase Models, from January 1, 2014 – Present.

Request No. 102

Documents sufficient to identify the "Orbid Mark" referenced in the Purchase Log.

Request No. 103

All communications between Plaintiffs (including Plaintiffs' counsel) and each "Seller" (Col. B) identified in the (unredacted) Purchase Log.

All settlement agreements entered between Plaintiffs and each "Seller" (Col. B) identified in the (unredacted) Purchase Log.

Request No. 105

All communications with each "Seller" (Col. B) identified in the (unredacted) Purchase Log since June 1, 2021, including communications regarding the return of any payment(s) made by the "Seller" to Plaintiffs.

Request No. 106

All communications between Amber Barnes and Chris Rook concerning the authentication of MK Products.

Request No. 107

All communications between Amber Barnes and Mark Manning concerning the authentication of MK Products.

Request No. 108

Photographs of the watches on the following lines of the Purchase Log: 206, 213, 233, 227, 262, 268, 270, 272, 275, 303, 321, 326, 349, 358, 362.

Request No. 109

A copy of all purchase reports, investigator reports, and internal notes concerning the watches on the following lines of the Purchase Log: 206, 213, 233, 227, 262, 268, 270, 272, 275, 303, 321, 326, 349, 358, 362.

All documents concerning Fossil's ratings on Amazon or any other online marketplace or website where Fossil has offered MK Products for sale, including seller feedback reviews, seller feedback scores, and/or defect rates.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: August 31, 2021 <u>s/Mark Berkowitz</u>

Mark Berkowitz Joel H. Rosner Sandra A. Hudak TARTER KRINSKY & DROGIN LLP 1350 Broadway

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E-mail: mberkowitz@tarterkrinsky.com jrosner@tarterkrinsky.com shudak@tarterkrinsky.com

Attorneys for Defendants

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on August 31, 2021, a copy of the foregoing document entitled

DEFENDANT'S THIRD SET OF REQUESTS FOR THE PRODUCTION OF

DOCUMENTS AND THINGS TO PLAINTIFF FOSSIL GROUP, INC. was served via

e-mail on the following counsel of record for Plaintiffs in this matter:

Michelle Mancino Marsh Lindsay Korotkin Arent Fox LLP 1301 Avenue of the Americas New York, NY 10019

Email: michelle.marsh@arentfox.com lindsay.korotkin@arentfox.com

Michael Lee Lee Law PLLC 579 Fifth Avenue, 14th Floor New York, NY 10017 Tel: (212) 621-8239

Email: michael@leelawservices.com

<u>s/Mark Berkowitz</u>
Mark Berkowitz

Whitney Gillaspie

Subject: FW: Angel Seller - Plaintiff's First Set of Requests for Production

Attachments: Angel Seller - Plaintiff's First RFP.pdf

From: Rachel Leibowitz < rachel.a.leibowitz@gmail.com >

Date: June 2, 2023 at 4:27:31 PM CDT

To: Alan Dabdoub adabdoub@lynnllp.com **Cc:** Howard Foster hfoster@fosterpc.com

Subject: Angel Seller - Plaintiff's First Set of Requests for Production

Good afternoon,

Please see the Plaintiff's First Set of Requests for Production attached.

--

Best Regards,

Rachel Leibowitz

Paralegal to Howard W. Foster, Esq.

Defendants'
Exhibit